

MAR 13 1944

Craig, Alaska
March 3, 1944

Alaska Pky

Mr. J. Earl Jackman
156 5th, Ave.
New York 10 N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman;

From what we learn the Presbyterian church of Craig is up for sale to the Seventh Day Church here. We are very dissapointed to hear this, first place we have no desire to join or go to the Seventh Day Church. You have taught us to beleive in the Presbyterian Church for the last 75 years and now your trying to have our Church sold. You are going to hurt a lot of the members feelings if you seel the Church.

According to the old minutes of the Presbyterian Church of Craig it states this: That word ~~was~~ received from the Board that a special gift of \$1,800 had been made provided Craig could secure \$1,000 to finish up the Church, besides the money we did raise, we had bought the Organ, the Bell, and the Stove. We give lots of credit to the members of the Presbysterians at Klawock who also helped work on it, It is the Elders of Klawock that urges us to write this letter to you. The remaining members here asks to to be given some consideration about the sale of their Church. If your going to sell the Church anyway we'd like to have the first chance in buying the Church for ourselves providingi It's at a reasonable cost. We'll do our best in having the building repaired. Our wish is to leave the Church stand as the First Presbysterian Church of Craig and re-organizatio- it. We've had some evening Services given by the layworker Mr. Syrus Peck from Klawock and thouroughly enjoyed it.

We are enclosing a list of signatures who object to the sales of the Church., just to show you how the people felt.

Yours Truly,

George E. Lemo (Edenso)

George Hamilton Sr.

*Craig:
Pop. 500
mem. 36.
other denom. - Ch. of Christ, 7th Day.*

MAR 13 1944

THE SIGNATURES LISTED BELOW OBJECT TO THE SALE OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRAIG; under present conditions.

38

Eddie Cogo X	Mildred Thomas
Isabel Charles	Peter Kennedy
Dorothy Benson	Mrs Pete Kennedy
Burnie Viant	Eileen Thomas
Mr + Mrs Joe Demmert (y.)	Mrs Paul Cooke
Mrs Chas Erickson	Elizabeth Gardner
Ralph James	Norma Jean Castle
Walter Anderson	Norma Lingley
Mrs Carl Westu	Vitor Edenso
Katherine Nakatla	Welyn Edenso
Carl J Wester	Marie Edenso
Maymie Roberts	George Gardner
Mr + Mrs Geo Edenso	George James
Mrs + Mrs Robert Edenso	Tillie Chyles
Oscar Davisson	James Charles
Jim Whiting	Margaret James
Paul Cooke	George Hamilton
	Mrs Geo. Hamilton
	Mrs Helen Thimeyer
	Mrs. H Cogo
	Geo. Haldane

Craig Church

March 15, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edenso
Craig, Alaska

My dear Mr. Edenso:

Thank you for your letter of March third with its appeal and petition against the sale of your Church at Craig. We appreciate the fine spirit of loyalty and consecration to your own Church and to the Presbyterian denomination which is revealed both in your letter and the petition. It indicates that you have a real desire to keep your Church as a center of worship.

The letter is a surprise to me for I had not received any information since recently entering this office that the sale of the Church was contemplated. Let me assure you that nothing like this would be done without proper consultation with your Church. I hope to be in Alaska in April and if possible to visit your Church and community.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

*File
Craig Ch*

June 6, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edenso
Craig, Alaska

Dear George:

You may have been wondering what has happened to your request for some help in the Craig Church for next winter. I want to give you the encouragement in the fact that we are trying to find a lay-worker for service beginning in the fall.

We have also asked the Board for a grant for a stove. Our plan, as we talked it over at Presbytery and later I talked with George Haldane about it, would be for your people to do something about the roof and paint on the inside of the Church, and we would provide sufficient funds for a suitable oil stove for the Church. This action has been passed by the Board and we are now notifying you that the funds are available when you are ready to start getting the Church in condition for meetings next fall.

I have asked Mr. Swanson, Mr. Booth, and Mr. Soboleff to be on the lookout for a good lay-worker for your Church. George Haldane and I talked about the possibility of his taking it but both agreed it might not be wise for him to do this in his own Church and in his own community. We hope that someone will be provided for regular services of Church and Sunday school. If we fail in this we shall ask Cyrus Peck to come over as often as possible from Klawock to help you.

I still remember how you and Jimmie went fishing and wish I could report the whole story, but just the fact that Jimmie fell in brings a big laugh wherever I tell it.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK
Dictated but not
signed by Mr. Jackman

received 6/19

Alaska Hwy

704538 JUL 5 1944
Craig, Alaska
June 18, 1944

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
New York, 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Your kind letter of encouragement was received today, and it has done a great deal for my morale.

What little schooling I have had was in a Presbyterian school at Howkan, Alaska, and a Mr. Goule was in charge. Presbyterian life has been pumped into me since I was a child, therefore, I have always been a Presbyterian.

I fought hard for this little church of ours in Craig right from the beginning, I have done a great deal to raise money to build it. After the building was complete, I fought to get a minister in here, but never succeeded for a long time. The only time we had a minister was when the Princeton sneaked in without our knowing she was coming. Many times it was just before service time, and the results would be a very small congregation. Mr. Swanson and Mr. Swogger can tell you that I really fought for a minister here. It seems to me that those ministers you had up here in this country were afraid of Craig, many times they passed us up to go on to Klawock or Hydaburg.

We do have a tough little town here, as it is the center of all types of fishing, trolling, seining & halibut. My wife and I have just now returned from church and everything in town is in full swing, the cocktail bar & liquor stores are wide open, and today is Sunday. It seems to me that you people would take more interest in a town like this., as Klawock & Hydaburg have been established churches for many years now. But, Craig is a new town and people are laying in the gutters, we need help, we need more than help. Therefore, I am asking you for more than a layworker for the Craig church. We need a white minister, so his congregation can be of both natives and whites. If you put a native layworker up here I can see now that there will be only a handful of natives going to the services. Otherwise, if you put a white minister and his wife here, they can build from the bottom up, and make a success of it.

Here is an example of how the majority of the people in Craig feel, that is the white people. My neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. Whiting come from the state of Washington, and at one time she was an organist at a Baptist Church in Snohomish. Now she never attends our church, and the reason she says is that, we are all natives, including the minister, and she is afraid she wouldn't understand the service. Otherwise, if we had a white minister she would attend services and be a faithful follower.

Cyrus Peck has been preaching here for several Sundays now, of course we all like him, he is a good fellow and believes what he preaches.

You told me while in Petersburg that you would write to me about the owners of this church, I am still waiting for that letter, and please don't forget a Communion set which you half promised to us. Mr. Betts gave us a few hymn books, and Mr. Yaw promised a few also.

We have enough money for repairing our church, that is for shingles, by fall we will have enough for paint for the interior. A few of us will make the repairs. If you want to claim part in this church, it is only right that you do your part also.

You and I talked to Mr. Swanson about bringing his choir to Craig, but so far he hasn't showed up, I guess he has been just too busy building his boat.

Thank you very much for the stove, and every kindness you have shown, we all appreciate your interest.

Yours very truly,

George Edenso
George Edenso

*Presbytery holds title to manse (owns it).
Presbytery holds title to church ?
Board has an \$1800. grant mortgage on church.*

July 19, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edensso
Box 538
Craig, Alaska

Dear George:

When I was waiting for the plane in Craig, I walked around observing the town and its people. There were a number of white people in evidence and I wondered where they would go to Church in the village. Your letter with its request for a white minister in order to attract these white people to the Church simply builds upon the question that I had in my mind during the visit. I realize the problem and realize your coming to the conclusion that we will not be able to get the support of these people unless we have a white minister.

There are two difficulties in the way of providing this type of ministry. In the first place, we have a scarcity of ministers in the States, and in the second place, we do not have sufficient funds to supply an ordained man for Craig alone. I have considered the possibility of joining Craig and Klawock and have a white minister be the pastor of both Churches. This, of course, would involve the use of a boat for the transportation between the two places. It seems there is no one available at the present time who would fill the requirements of being able to minister to these two villages and have a boat for transportation. The only man we have up there now is Verne Swanson and he has asked to go to another place if and when it becomes vacant.

I shall keep this problem in mind and try to do something about it in the future. Meanwhile, you probably know that Mr. Swanson is writing to your son, Nat, asking if he would consider service with the Board as a lay-worker in one of the native Churches. I have had no further word on this as yet but feel that even if we did we could not use him in his home Church. We have this same problem in the situation at Eke and even though things are going well it might seem better to move William Duguqua to some other place.

The fire at Hoonah has upset the services of Samuel Jahnsen and we shall have to make some adjustment for his ministry in the Fall pending upon what happens in the rebuilding of the village of Hoonah. I can give you no definite word

Page #2
Mr. George Edenso

July 19, 1944

now but do express a hope and concern that we may have some leadership for your Church in the Fall. It is also my hope that we may come back to the nine months' service for our lay-workers when the Fall comes.

We are glad to know that Cyrus Peck has been able to help you with some services. Cyrus is a sincere young man and as you say believes what he preaches.

We have investigated the ownership of your Church. The Board does not own the Church but has a grant mortgage of \$1800 on it. Our Property Office is under the impression that the title of the Church rests with the Presbytery of Alaska. This is true in case of the manse but I am not sure if it is true in case of the Church. If the title is not held by the Presbytery then it would be the property of the Church itself and the congregation with the mortgage being held by the Board. In this case you certainly would consider it your Church and the Board's mortgage would continue as long as it is used as a Presbyterian Church. If, however, you give up the use of it as a Presbyterian Church then the Board would have the right to sell the property to satisfy the mortgage. You ought to go forward with your plan in repairing the building as your Church and the Board will assist you as I notified you with the purchase of a stove for next winter.

If we can ^{have} assume regular services with your Church we will then take up the matter of your hymn books and possibly a communion set. We are not sure that we can buy communion sets at the present time but we will consider this matter later. I am making no definite promises but certainly would help you if I can.

I was hopeful that Mr. Swanson would find it possible to visit you for communion before this time. He is probably out with his boat now so may not be available until later.

Don't be discouraged but go forward because we are with you, and hope there is a better day coming for the Craig Church.

Cordially yours,

JBJ:FX

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

AUG 23 1944

To George Edness
Craig, Alaska.

air mail.

Dear George:

I have been giving some thought to your request for a white minister in the Craig Church for next winter. As I wrote you before we do not have the money to give you a man full time but the suggestion has come that we might have Mr. Swanson use his boat and serve Craig along with Hydaburg. He would have regular services every Sunday at such time as could be worked out with the Hydaburg Congregation and come on certain days of the week for pastoral work.

Mr. Swanson is the only one available in your section with a boat and he will do this if agreeable to you. We had other plans ~~in view~~ for him but he will do this next year if such an arrangement is satisfactory.

Please send me your answer by wire because this ought to be settled by Sept. 1st so that other changes in plans can be arranged for fall work. Mr. Swanson would be available by the middle of Oct. or earlier.

We are still thinking of you and praying the Lord will open the way for the revival of the Presbyterian Church in Craig. Greetings to your good wife, George Haldane, George Hamilton and the rest of your people. Hope you have a good summer.

Sincerely yours,

August 24, 1944

AIR MAIL

Mr. George Edenso
Craig, Alaska

Dear George:

I have been giving some thought to your request for a white minister in the Craig Church for next winter. As I wrote you before we do not have the money to give you a man full time, but the suggestion has come that we might have Mr. Swanson use his boat and serve Craig along with Hydaburg. He would have regular services every Sunday at such time as could be worked out with the Hydaburg congregation and come on certain days of the week for pastoral work.

Mr. Swanson is the only one available in your section with a boat and he will do this if agreeable to you. We had other plans for him, but he will do this next year if such an arrangement is satisfactory.

Please send me your answer by wire because this ought to be settled by September 1, so that other changes in plans can be arranged for fall work. Mr. Swanson would be available by the middle of October or earlier.

We are still thinking of you and praying the Lord will open the way for the revival of the Presbyterian Church in Craig. Greetings to your good wife, George Holdane, George Hamilton and the rest of your people. Hope you have a good summer.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ/mk

Dictated but not signed by
Mr. Jackman.

*File
11 Aug Church*

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

August 30, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. H. L. Wood
101 East Second Street
P.O. Box 2841
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Pastor Wood:

Thank you for your letter of July twenty-fourth which has been forwarded to me on a field trip. I appreciated your courtesy and thoughtfulness in writing me.

Rumors had been coming to me about your visit to Gambell and they gave me some concern. It appeared that you were making the most of the absence of our minister there and were seeking to draw the Eskimos away from the Church which has pioneered among them and brought the message of Christ to them. I began to wonder if these rumors were true, which kind of Christianity you believed and practiced. Your letter reassured me and increased my confidence in you and your program. No one, of us, even though we have the only protestant work in a community has any right or power to tell people what they must believe or when they must worship but certainly we must avoid competition when there is so much that needs to be done for those who do not know Christ.

I have been in contact with the people in the Grace Church and we are planning to resume services there this Fall. Our worker at Klawock held services for them during June and the people have raised money to repair the Church. The people do not want the Church to be sold to anyone.

Thanking you again for your letter and wishing you rich blessings,
I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackson, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEF:FK

October 25, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edonso
Craig, Alaska

Dear George:

We have been rather tardy in getting you a final word upon the arrangements for a white minister for Craig during this winter. Acting upon your telegram that Mr. Swanson's services were entirely satisfactory, we have arranged with him to go to Craig for services each Sunday and some pastoral ministry during the week. Perhaps already he has come over to to start this work with you.

We are making arrangements to pay for the running cost of his boat for this service, and during our visit at Presbytery we talked about the possibility of the Church making some contribution toward the support of its minister. Our final decision on this suggestion was that the Church should pay an amount in excess of \$100 but for this first winter we are going to ask your congregation to pay to Mr. Swanson \$100 toward his support. You will pay this directly to him and we will adjust our financial relations with him with the understanding that this payment will be made.

There are two other things about which we talked that we must take up later. You indicated the need of your congregation for new hymnals. We have asked Mr. Soboleff to take up with the Committee on Christian Education the possibility of deciding upon a hymnal which will be most adaptable for our Indian congregations and try to use the same hymnal through all the Indian churches. This will give us the advantage of getting the hymnals and provide for visits between the churches. The final decision on this may not be ready until the meeting of Presbytery in April. This does not help you now but we hope some arrangements can be made for the present. The matter of the communion set will have to be discussed later. It may be possible for Mr. Swanson to borrow the set from Hydaburg for the present. Eventually we want every Church to have a set of sufficient size to serve its own congregation.

We hope that the work of preparing the Church is under way and everything is being cared for. We have the money available for a stove when you

Page 2

Mr. George Edenso

October 25, 1944

are ready for it. We may supply up to \$90 or \$100 if it is necessary.

We trust this new arrangement is going to be helpful for the advancement of our work. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon Mr. Swanson's ministry and upon the three George's as they lead their congregation and community to better things.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEL:FK

NOV 15 1944

Alaska Pk

Craig, Alaska
Nov. 5, 1944

Mr. J. Earl Jackman
New York, New York

My dear brother Jackman:

Your letter of October 25th was delivered in my hands. Ever since I have met you, I have been very pleased with you. I often think of you. I hope that I will see you next spring at the presbytery in Hydaburg.

In regards to the dying church at Craig, now with your great help the church is coming alive again. Last Sunday Mr. Swanson held his first service, and there were 28 at the morning service and 16 at the evening service, white people included. And there were 15 children at Sunday school. Our offering was a little better than five dollars. - Now Mr. Swanson and the three George's met and decided that he can come every other Sunday. That's the way the Hydaburg people want it, so we agreed with them. So today we had no services, but next Sunday we will have enough money in the treasure

now to shingle the roof and probably paint the inside. Just as soon as Mr. Swanson arrives on Thursday the 9th we will start on the church. The shingles are already ordered and will be here next Wednesday. - Mrs. Swanson told me that she will start the Missionary Society just as soon as she returns next week. Women folks are hard workers so I will depend on them. We have a few hymnals from the Ostersburg church, and the church at Sitka sent us a few, and also promised us a communion set, so you needn't worry about getting us one. I think Mr. Swanson has ordered a stove already, if it costs over a hundred dollars we will pay the difference.

Yes you and I talked about paying the ministers wages, so whatever I promised you at the time is as good as gold, and I know that God will provide for that. - We will talk it over a little later with Mr. Swanson. - Fishing was very poor this past season so we're all broke, but we each have two hands apiece. - God Bless you brother.

Geo. Edens

George Edenso

November 27, 1944

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edenso
Craig, Alaska

Dear George:

Glad to receive your letter of November fifth with all of its encouraging report about the progress of the Church. We would congratulate your people to do what you can to restore the activity of the congregation and the repairs on the building. To go back to the old saying that when we want something done "we let George do it"; since there are three George's there it looks as though you are doing a good job.

Reports have come to me that a number of people from other villages have moved to Craig for work and we hope this will increase the possibilities for the Church this year. We know Mr. Swanson will do his best for your people and your Church. We trust you will have a good year together.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEF:FK

3/28/45

Mr. Johnson

7/2/44 sent to
Mr. Rowan to see
Mr. Colman at
Kake, Alaska
and send
Mr. Dugan to
Craig

~~3/17/45 sent to
Mr. Sobolev to
Robert Proctor
Hutchins
for Craig~~

Mr. Colman asked for
a white minister due
to the white in the
valley who do not
attend due to a
native pastor.

Craig, Alaska FEB 28 1945
Feb. 11, 1945

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Board of National Missions
New York, New York.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

I am thinking of you seriously again today. — we have our church going now, and there is no question that you have heard from Mr. Swanson in regard to what has been accomplished here. — So far everything is going alright, only part time minister will never do. — The Sunday school will never be a success, we have plenty of opposition in this town now. — The seven day adventist minister is giving our children for Sunday school right along. we want a full time minister here, so that he can work everyday in the week. I know that you are thinking of us right along. And Swanson is doing his best, and we like both he and his wife, — she has started the Missionary Society here. —

We want a man here who will work with the people every day, and his wife working with the womenfolk. And that way, it won't be long we'll have a very good church here. -

We've got our church all shingled, and she's all painted on the inside, that is the first coat - next week we will start on the second coat.

The fishing season is started up here now, and we had a big halibut steak for supper.

Will you be in Hydaburg for the Presbytery?

I wish I could share our fresh fish with you.

The three Georges are still working together and doing their best to help Mr. Swanson. -

25 is the average attendance for church and Sunday School varies between 10 and 20.

I received a letter from Mr. Whiteside, - we want a man

who will work among the people.
Mr. Whiteside was up here before,
we all liked him, and he's a fine
fellow, the only thing we found
about him that we disliked was
that he never cared whether he
preached to two people or a full house.
Now days with opposition and
liquor stores you've got to have a
man who will work all the time.

Mr. Swanson came to see me
about who he might visit. — I sent
him to a couple who dropped
out of our church years ago. — Now
they go to the 7th day adventist
church regularly. — After
Swanson & his wife visited
there they came to our church
for both services last Sunday.
He was one of the men who helped
paint the church. That shows

that it pays to meet among the people during the week.

I can feel your prayers for us at times. - Thank you for all that you have done for us and Craig Presbyterian church. We pray continuously to help us make a success of our church.

God Bless you.

Yours truly,
Geo. Edense.

P.S. - we are going to look forward to a visit from you after the Hyaburg Presbytery.

*File
Craig Church*

March 1, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edenso
Craig, Alaska

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of February eleventh about the situation at Craig. We realize that The Rev. Mr. Swanson has done a good work as far as he has been able to do it having to serve two congregations. We are still hoping and praying that more progress will come to the Craig Church and we will be able to do what we ought to do in that community.

I am planning to be in Hydaburg for the meeting of Presbytery and hope to get over to visit Craig during that time. It will be necessary for me to leave southeastern Alaska immediately after the meeting of Presbytery in order to get to the meeting of Yukon Presbytery by April 18th so that my visit to Craig will have to be just before or during Presbytery.

There are many things to be taken up with the National Missions Committee and the Presbytery. We shall do our best with the people whom we can secure and the money we have available for Craig along with all the rest of the churches.

Again may I commend the three George's for all your effort for the Church and the community. We are praying for you and trust the Lord will give you some real progress.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEL:PK

NOV 19 1945

ALASKA
PERM. FILE

November 14, 1945

TO: Dr. A.B. Keeler
FROM: Dr. Earl Jackman
RE: Manse at Craig, Alaska

Our manse at Craig, Alaska burned to the ground, practically a total loss. Two little children were burned to death in the fire. The manse property at Craig is owned by Alaska Presbytery. They must rebuild this manse promptly.

This request is sent forward in behalf of the Presbytery of Alaska for a grant of \$2,000., it being understood that the Presbytery will provide the Board with a grant mortgage for that amount and insurance covering the \$2,000. will be carried by them.

Earl Jackman, Executive for Alaska

NOTATION : In view of the fact that Craig is an Indian village, composed of very poor people who have no extra money, except such as is necessary for their immediate maintenance, it is recommended that under Rule 20 of the Rules Governing Building Aid "Authority is given to the Board, within the budget, to meet emergencies" that a manse grant of \$2,000. be approved in answer to the above request and that the Presbytery be requested to provide the Board with a grant mortgage in this amount and pay the insurance cost to cover this grant mortgage.

AHK:DJ

Craig Church

January 8, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. George Edenso
Mr. George Haldane
Mr. George Hamilton
Craig, Alaska

Dear Friends:

Mr. Swanson has reported that the walls of the manse have been torn down and now everything is in readiness to go forward in building it up again. We have allowed him only enough money for materials so the labor will have to be done by Mr. Swanson and with whatever help he can get from the members of the congregation. Craig needs a manse if we are to have a minister there. This fact alone should urge the people to give whatever help they can so there will be a good manse for the residence of the minister.

When I was in Craig the last time all of you were busy with your own jobs. We are wondering if it is possible for you to give Mr. Swanson some help. Can you get others to come in and help too? The sooner the manse is completed the sooner you will have a resident minister.

We are praying for the advance of our church work in Craig. We know you are doing the same thing. We trust you will put forth every effort to make the work of the Church effective in the life of the community.

Kindest personal regards and best wishes to you and all your people at the beginning of this New Year!

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
JEJ:PK Unit of Work in Alaska

Dictated but not
signed by Dr. Jackman

CC to Mr. Edenso, Mr. Haldane, and Mr. Hamilton

Page #2

Mr. George Edenso

January 8, 1946

P.S. Special thanks to you and your wife for their beautiful Christmas greeting. It was a pleasure to hear from you and carried my mind back to my visit with you. Thanks again.

FEB 14 1946

Box 358
Craig-Alaska
January 28 1946

Dear friends- and "Kin"too-

It has been a long time since some of you have heard from us and we do want to thank you for all your letters and cards with their good wishes received at Christmas time. Your remembrances were appreciated more than usual this year since correspondence from this end going your way has been more scarce. We felt particularly guilty when many of your cards were forwarded to us from Hydaburg. Most of you knew about our serving Hydaburg and Craig last winter a week at a time in each place using our boat for transportation. But this winter we are no longer at Hydaburg. A new minister with his wife and family moved in there from South Dakota. We are serving Craig and Klawak. These three towns are all on the ~~xxx~~ west side of Prince of Wales Island and with the exception of Kasaan on the south east end are the only towns on the island. Hydaburg, a Haida Indian village, is four hours from Craig via our boat and Klawak, a Thlinget village,- fourty minutes. Craig's population of 300 includes Haidas, Thlingets, Half-breeds and all whites. It is an interesting little town-kind of a center for seiners, trollers, trappers and loggers. There is a large Libbys salmon cannery here, a sawmill which has been in the process of being operated spasmodically the past two years but has promise of running permanently beginning early spring. There are the usual grocery and merchandise stores(3), two confectionary and icecream parlors complete with juke boxes, a fine little library, a dentist, doctor and beautician. The town has more than its share of liquor establishments-five-. There is quite a movement under way now for Territorial control of liquor and everyone who is interested even a little bit in the welfare of human souls is hoping it will go through. The amount of drinking and drunkenness in Alaska with its toll of accidents, lives and harmful influence on the young people and children is increasing-especially during the summer fishing season. People everywhere have become aroused to doing something about it and Teritorial control does seem a big step in the right direction.

Craig is especially blessed in having four churches. Our own Presbyterian-organized in 1928 when the town was young, the Church of Christ, the 7th Day Adventist, and the Pentecostal. In spite of the fact that four groups have made for confusion in the minds of some, we are glad for the witnessing that is going on in this place to the Grace that is in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our constant prayer is that "Grace may reign through righterousness unto eternal life" for every soul in Craig who is at present "out of Christ!"

We are thoroughly enjoying our new field of service. We are in Klawak for the Sunday evening service and for children's Bible Club on Monday evening. The rest of the time we are in Craig. Last summer before we had a chance to move into it, the little manse at Craig was burned. This is the reason we are living on our boat with the exception of the two days in the Klawak manse where we have moved our furniture temporarily. As soon as we arrived in October Verne started the rebuilding of the Craig manse. He had first to tear down the charred remains of the old. During the trapping season hea has been working on it alone in all kinds of mean weather but this past week he has had help from some of the men in the Church and it surely has made a difference. They should have the roof and siding finished by next week. We will move in just as soon as we possibly can. It has been many years since this small congregation has had a permanent minister and the response we have had has been most gratifying. We have three good elders who have lived here since the church was first built and during these years they have been without a leader they have never given up their hope that they would one day have their own church going again and the minister living in their midst. So even last winter when we could be with them only every two weeks, we were welcomed with open arms and not the indifference we expected to find.

Their appreciation has been something to warm the heart and certainly a source of encouragement for us. For instance-the Christmas program-the first in this church for years- we are still hearing about it and being thanked for it. Just a simple play

but surely the Christmas Spirit was felt by everyone here this year. When we started our plans before Thanksgiving we had so few children to choose from in our Sunday School we had to ask some of the young women to be our "Choir". The two men who were not out trapping helped too. They were all very interested and did not mind at all being a part of the children's play. We placed them at the back of the back of the auditorium where they sang by candlelight. Their singing was lovely and worked in beautifully with the rest of the play. With the aid of some rather realistic scenery the soft music of the choir and the children so still and perfect, everyone caught the spirit and meaning of the Scriptures being re-enacted and presented as beautiful a picture of the Manger Scene as one would ever want to see. It was not difficult to visualize the Actual Scene as it must have been 1946 years ago.

The Watch Night Service was nice too. Almost all of our own members were present and others too. The young couple from the Pentecostal Church joined us with their accordion and special music and we had a real time of Christian fellowship. Altogether our Holiday Season was a very happy occasion.

We have a childrens Bible Club at Craig also. Both groups seem interested and we enjoy them. Last Sunday the "Junior Choir" which is made up of children from the Bible Club and Sunday School sang at the morning service at Craig. The group at Klawak are to sing at the evening service this coming Sunday. Lots of fun- for us all!

On the one day we are in Klawak, Verne has been repairing the manse- some of the most necessary. Right now he is in the process of reshingling the roof which has been leaking badly for months and thus spoiled much of the interior of an otherwise fine and cheery old manse. So you see, life on the "Mission Front" is not all preaching and winning. Lots to be done with hammer and nails too. Verne has some assistance in the way of a Lay-Worker in Klawak so the entire responsibility of that field is not his.

Our adopted son John is a Junior at Sheldon Jackson School this year. Looks as though unless the draft law is changed soon, the Army will have another soldier in the not too far off future. We have not had as much of our son as we would have liked having but being "Mom" and "Dad" is pretty special in any space of time.

Now will close. We would love hearing from each one of you. Hope you will not mind too much, this short-cut method of writing to you this time. Our sincere good wishes go with each letter for another eleven months full of joy and should the dark moments come, may they be met in "the strength of the Lord".

Sincerely,

Verne & Margie

P.S. We are enclosing the program we used last Sunday at Craig- showing the picture of our little Presbyterian Church there.

Say Church

October 4, 1946

The following letter was sent to Mr. George Edenso, Mr. George Haldane, Mr. George Hamilton. We enclosed another copy of the Repair Estimate Blank for completion in Mr. Edenso's letter and will appreciate the return of this form as soon as possible.

*Regular Form letter
in this space!
see letter in book*

225.-

The Rev. Verne J. Swanson.

P.S. The Rev. Mr. Swanson will serve your Church for a nine months' period this year.

We have not received your Repair Estimate Blank for Craig, as yet, and are forwarding another copy to Mr. Edenso, Clerk of Session.

NOV 29 1946

Craig, Alaska
Nov. 25, 1946

J. Earl Jackman
New York, N. Y.
Dear Sir,

Your letter of October 25th
has long been in hand.

Regards to Swanson and our
proportion of his wages. He will
pay our share with out any
argument. He is doing very
good work here among us.

Of course he had a tough road
to travel when he moved into
to Craig, I told you it would
be so before he came. He is

not exactly the man for
Craig but, he gets along quite
well. His wife is the top notcher
in Christian work. She is a
wonderful worker among the
children and grown people.
The thing I am after is
summer work. While we
close our church up for

the summer other churches
continue their activities here.

Last summer there were three
(3) churches working here.

Children were kept fairly busy.
There was a large group of
Bible students for all (3) three
churches all the time. Instead
of growing larger we are
growing smaller yet.

Of course our Sunday school
now, since Mrs. Swanson has
gone to work ~~of~~ on it, has in-
creased considerably. I couldn't

say in a letter what is
on my mind but I will
try my best to see you in
Sitka. In Hydaburg last
spring I couldn't get to talk
to you. Now, let me say some
thing to you about Petersburg.

Petersburg church is just about
closing down, so, I would
say this. I would advise you
move Mr. Degazua to Kake and

move Arthur Johnson to Petersburg. Because they like Dugagua in Lake and Johnson is Petersburg better. Mr. Webster wired Mr. Swanson asking him to take shingles from Wrangell to the Petersburg church. We are willing to spare Mr. Swanson to do such work but, Arthur Johnson, has a nice seine boat big enough to pack all the shingles needed for such a building. We'll straighten the matter up ourselves between us. Mr. Swanson's suggestion has resign next July need not worry you till the time comes - I will try talk him out of it. If he does resign I would like to have Mr. Hall who use to be in Ketchikan out here in his place - please keep in touch with him. To my way of thinking Mr. Hall is the best you have up here.

Not because anyone mis-
treats Mr. or Mrs. Swanson
but because he sees a better
thing for himself. All his
life he has wanted to be
an electrician. Now he sees
a chance to produce water
powered electricity for Craig
and Klawock. I suggested to
him he could preach for a
small amount and he agreed
but don't worry yet - we'll
thrash it out some way
or other. Between time be
sure to keep in touch with
Mr. Hall, we want him in
case Mr. Swanson drops out.

Fishing was very poor
this year so everybody is
poor with it. Even at that
I'm not worried for we have
already provided the church
with money for this winter.

Good by and God bless you.

Yours very truly; George Edens

P.S. May I don't write regular no Swanson is
writing regular to you. Of any thing of importance
needs attention here, inform me and I shall
do my very best.

Let's keep Presbyterians up, let's not
let it down.

ALASKA

PERM. FILE

Miss Wilma Tiedemann
Dr. Jackman

November 2, 1946

Craig sdr.

The manse at Craig was provided from a grant of Board funds but is being held in the name of the Presbytery. We are responsible for it. I am not sure about the ownership of the manse at Klawock whether it is in the name of Presbytery or the Board, but again we are responsible for it. Because of this we have included the manse credit for Mr. Swanson and Mr. Cleeland.

JEJ:FK

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

*at Perm file
Craig Ch. Dr.*

June 23, 1952.

Rev. Edward F. Davison,
Craig,
Alaska.

Dear Ed:

We are enclosing a copy of the letter which was in the bottle you found under the Craig manse. After you have read this you might decide with your Session what you would like to have done with it. We can send the original to the Historical Society or we could replace it in the bottle and return the whole thing to you to be reburied. We shall not do anything with it until we have a report from you.

Regards to all your family.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska.

JEJ:MVBEnc.

On January 12, 1932, Rev. J. R. Falconer arrived in Craig on an "Adventure in Faith" to undertake missionary work, without salary, the Board of National Missions having "no money for the work at Craig".

On March 2 the Mission boat Princeton arrived, Rev. Verne Swanson in Command, remaining here till the 8th. During his stay in Craig Rev. Swanson suggested the building of temporary living quarters on the manse lot, to be replaced later by a permanent building, when funds permitted. After consultation with W. L. Scott plans were drawn by Mr. Scott for a two room house which could be enlarged by the addition of other rooms. These plans were later revised to include three rooms. Mr. Swanson then issued checks, from his own private funds, for lumber, freight and other things, amounting in all to \$270. and some cents. This was done on faith, hoping Presbytery would approve the act and reimburse him.

At the meeting of Presbytery at Hyaburg, April 6 to 11, \$400. was appropriated from the funds of the Corporation of the Presbytery of Alaska for the manse at Craig. Also \$126., for extra traveling expenses, was given, by act of Presbytery, for that purpose, was given, by act of Presbytery, the Craig Manse Fund.

On March 10 three of the corners of the lot, set aside by the town for a manse, were found. On March 1

assisted by Mr. Scott, the lot was measured and the location for the building decided on and on the 14th start was made on clearing the lot. Up to date: April 25-1932, the following have assisted in clearing the brush, cutting up the logs, hauling lumber from the dock, bringing in Cedar logs for foundation posts etc.:

Peter Nathan, 1 hour. James George, 1 9/2 hrs.
George Haldane, 1 7 hrs. Benson Skulka H.H.
George Hamilton, 1 4 1/2 hrs. Willis Hamilton, 3/2
Andrew Vandel 3 1/2 hrs. Frederick Hamilton
1 1/2 hrs.

Today, as the last act before depositing these notes here, George Haldane helped saw off all foundation posts; also he and George Hamilton helped set the sills on the posts.

Dated this 25th day of April, 1932.

J. R. Falconer, Pastor
Craig Presbyterian Church

Re: Craig, Alaska

*all Permitted
Craig Ch. Dr*

"On January 12, 1932, Rev. F.R. Falconer arrived in Craig on an "Adventure in Faith" to undertake missionary work, without salary, the Board of National Missions having "no money for the work at Craig."

"On March 2 the Mission boat Princeton arrived, Rev. Verne Swanson in command, remaining here till the 8th. During his stay in Craig Rev. Swanson suggested the building of temporary living quarters on the manse lot, to be replaced later by a permanent building, when funds permitted. After consultation with W.R. Scott plans were drawn by Mr. Scott for a two room house which could be enlarged by the addition of other rooms. These plans were later revised to include three rooms. Mr. Swanson then issued checks, from his own private funds, for lumber, freight and other things, amounting in all to \$270. and some cents. This was done on faith, hoping Presbytery would approve the act and reimburse him.

"At the meeting of Presbytery at Hydaburg, April 6 to 11, \$400. was appropriated from the funds of the Corporation of the Presbytery of Alaska for the manse at Craig. Also \$126. prorata traveling expenses of the members to Presbytery, not needed for that purpose, was given, by act of Presbytery, to the Craig Manse Fund.

"On March 10 three of the corners of the lot, set aside by the town for a manse were found. On March 11 assisted by Mr. Scott, the lot was measured and the location for the building decided on and on the 14th a start was made on clearing the lot.

"Up to date: April 25, 1932, the following have assisted in clearing the brush, cutting up the logs, hauling lumber from the dock, bringing in cedar logs for foundation posts etc:

Peter Nathan, 1 hour James George, 19 1/2 hours
George Haldane, 17 hours Benson Skulka, 4 hours
George Hamilton, 14 1/2 hrs. Willis Hamilton, 3 1/2 hours
Andrew Vandel, 3 1/2 hrs. Frederick Hamilton, 1 1/2 hours

"Today, as the last act before depositing these notes here, George Haldane helped saw off all foundation posts; also he and George Hamilton helped set the sills on the posts.

Dated this 25th day of April, 1932

F.R. Falconer, Pastor

Craig Presbyterian Church"

Note: This narrative was found May, 1952 in a bottle underground under the manse of the Craig Church. The manse reported here burned in Nov., 1945 and a new one was built in 1946 with aid from the Board of National Missions. Original statement returned to Edward Davison, missionary-pastor at Craig. 6/1952

JEJ:KS

Dept. of Work in Alaska

Board of National Missions

6/10/52

Craig, Alaska

May 15, 1956

VIA AIRMAIL
The Rev. Robert Van Nest
Box 557
Craig, Alaska

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of April 26th. We are glad to get the report that everything is in order concerning the ownership of the land for the church and manse in Craig, being in the name of the Presbytery of Alaska. That does permit us to give some help to the people in the maintenance of the buildings. It gives the congregation the responsibility for carrying the insurance on both buildings. I noticed recently, too, that the mortgage renewal had been processed between our Legal Department and your Treasury.

You have a very good suggestion in writing to the Rev. Charles E. Hurst, about the forthcoming invitation to the minister to come and serve in Craig, rather than to have the high school person. Don Lester and I are having conferences to make up the list of people to invite and getting the material ready to send out for the visiting ministers. We hope to get these invitations in the mail within the next week or two. If you are sure that Hurst is the man who would fit into the Craig situation, then by all means go ahead and let him know that the invitation is coming. Where we do not know the people involved and feel there would be a need to inquire something about them before the invitation is extended, we do this just to be sure that the man will fit the situation locally.

It was a real pleasure to be in your home and share your fellowship in the work at Craig and be able to talk to your Officers. There is every evidence of appreciation on the part of your people for the work which you and Phyl are doing. The situation on the floor of Presbytery was regrettable and I think did not truly reflect the fine Christian spirit which our missionary-pastors have in Alaska, but once in a while the humanness of ministers will break out. There are the things that we try to overlook and build upon the better virtues of each of us for a stronger Christian ministry in our work. The fact that ministers acknowledge these weaknesses and try to overcome them is the best recommendation we can have for a stronger spiritual attitude and program for the future.

Regards to all of you.

Cordially yours,

JEJ:dj
cc: Dr. R. Rolland Armstrong

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska

May 15, 1956

P.S. At the April Meeting, the Board passed an appropriation of \$475 to include the following: rug for living room \$116.18, paint \$25.00, linoleum for kitchen and bathroom \$50.00, and Deepfreeze \$175.00. You will notice that a few more dollars were appropriated than is listed here but we figured you may have something for freight on the living room rug. We are asking the Treasury Department for the check for this sum to be forwarded to you with the auditing forms. Your original request last December, included something for vestibule repairs and materials for the new ceiling in the church building. During my visit I noticed that these things were in process and am wondering if the people themselves have not cared for the bill. Remember that we are trying to get the people to share, at least, equally with us in the cost of materials and provide for the labor involved. Perhaps you should give me a revised estimate of need on this particular part of the appropriation. Some money is available and we will see what we can do.

JEJ

Thorn Van Nest
Craig Church APR 25 1957

April, 1957

Dear Christian Friends,

Phyllis, Chris, and I have just come back from our Presbytery and Presbyterial meetings in Sitka. Jimmy stayed with a family in Craig while we were gone. Needless to say, we were all glad to be reunited again. These meetings are quite different from those in the States. These are held only once a year, and they are for five days. A voluminous amount of business is done in that time, believe me! All of the business for the year is supposed to be handled in those five days. Our major problem for these meetings is transportation. It is far too expensive to travel by airplane, so we must travel by boat. We left Craig on the Princeton-Hall on Monday morning, and we didn't arrive in Sitka until Thursday noon. All of that time was spent in travel. We had a stopover in Juneau, and the native village of Hoonah. We did manage to get back, however, in only two and a half days. The weather wasn't bad, but it wasn't good either. It wasn't rough, but we did have a lot of snow, fog, and rain. Presbytery and Presbyterial are always a high point in the year for us. After the long winter, we get together to renew old friendships and acquaintances. It is a time of fellowship, but it is also a time of work. During the meetings, we were privileged in having as our special speaker, the Rev. Mr. Harry Rine DeYoung of the Redford Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit. He spoke on "Preaching For A Verdict" which especially helped the ministers.

The meetings in Sitka emerged with a decision that greatly affected the Van Nest's and our work in Craig. The Board of National Missions said that it was necessary for them to combine the work in Craig and Klawock to be handled by one minister. So, beginning on June 1, we will be responsible for both of the churches. This will be the first two-point parish among the Presbyterian work in Alaska (that we know of) and will, of course, mean a doubling up of our load. It will also mean that added responsibilities will have to be undertaken by the lay people in these two churches. The reason for this decision was that the population in Klawock has decreased somewhat. Since there is little work in Craig and Klawock outside of fishing and some logging, some families have moved to Ketchikan and other places. There is little doubt (at least in my mind) that before long these areas will grow, but at the present time they are not growing. There is one very good prospect for mining limestone nearby, and when they do, Craig will be greatly affected. There are plans to construct a road across Prince of Wales Island which will make us more accessible to Ketchikan. That will increase our population as logs will be brought in here and transported by truck toward Ketchikan instead of the long boat trip around the island. We now have a sawmill that has been started in Craig, and we are looking forward to its completion this summer. So, there are possibilities, but it will take some time before they are put into effect. To aid us in our new arrangement, we will have a new Volkswagon Micro Bus which is able to seat nine people, and will help us to unite the work in the two towns. We are looking forward to its arrival, and our new challenge.

In December, we were very busy. Two churches supplied Christmas presents for the children of our Sunday School, and we painstakingly selected each gift for each child. In addition, our choir presented Christmas music, and we had a special children's program on Christmas Sunday. On New Year's Eve we had a Watchnight Service with party games and refreshments. It was a very enjoyable time for all, and we felt that the New Year was begun properly, when it was begun in the House of God. 1956 came to an unfortunate end with the
(over)

dissolving of the medical clinic in Klawock and the exodus of the Starr family. We miss them not only because it means that we now have no doctor available, but also because the Starrs were Christian people, and a good witness to our communities. Our attitude toward the lack of medical facilities on the west coast here has been expressed in this way: "It meand that we will have to realize that God is good." So, this means that we have to trust the Lord, knowing that He will take care of us, and He has.

In the new year, we elected our new officers at the Congregational meeting. I was personally very pleased with the selection of the congregation. I felt that they elected men and women who were the most spiritually qualified. Our Scout work is persisting, sometimes rather falteringly, but it is continuing to remain active. The choir is very active. We have had an adult choir just about every Sunday since school started. The young people are also heartily joining in on it too. We have our new hymnbooks which have added a great deal to our worship, and we are momentarily expecting choir robes.

One Sunday evening in January, after we showed a film, three junior age girls came up to me and said that they had a question that they wanted to ask. They wanted to know how they could become "better Christians". I was amazed at this question coming from such young people, and told them that I couldn't answer it easily, but that if they would come to my home the next day at 4:00 that we would talk about it. They were eager to come, and they have been coming once a week ever since. Their group has grown since they first came, and I feel that they have the real desire to know all about becoming a Christian. We have a little discussion, Bible study, and sentence prayers. I was puzzled as to why they should ask me this question, and I think that it is because they largely come from homes where there are conflicts and problems that they don't understand, and I think that even at their young age they sense this, and feel that they want to have the help of Jesus.

We now have a Communicant's Class of three young people. The understanding is that they come to the class, and if, after they have completed it, they feel that they are ready to make their decision for Christ and want to join the Church, then they are invited and welcome to do so. I have purposely made church membership a serious thing, which it should be, and I don't encourage anyone to take it lightly. These three young people are serious about it, and I feel that they are ready to take this step. I hope and pray that they will. It will mean a lot to the other young people in the community to see some who are willing to publicly commit themselves to Christ. It will also mean a great deal to the church, to know that they are adding worthy members to their fellowship.

As I have thought over the work of our church here, I think that one of the most valuable contributions that we can make is to give to the people of Craig and Klawock a steady, consistent ministry. That is what they need more than anything else: to see the work of the church steadily continue to persist and grow, and to see mature Christian people actually live their lives before the world. And as time goes on, this sort of thing will mushroom. It may take a while, but in time I believe it will develop. I am persuaded that this has already begun. Young married people are stepping into places of responsibility, and the church is becoming stronger.

I haven't had much opportunity in the past few months to visit Edna Bay, but when I did, I felt that my ministry was being used. I always have that feeling when I go to Edna Bay. This last time, a brawny mechanic stopped me before I left and told how he had come back to the camp after a Christmas vacation, without his wife. Upon returning, he realized that his life had to

be changed. He said that he began to pray as he had never prayed before, and that he had an overwhelming sense of the forgiveness of Christ in his life. He sent to Ketchikan to get a Bible, and he wanted me to help him to understand it, which I tried to do. I have since written to him, to send him additional materials. So, the Holy Spirit is working among men and women in every corner of the world. His work never ends, and neither can men escape Him. It is a wonderful thing to witness the working of the Spirit in such a first-hand experience. This man's life was radically changed, and I'm sure that he will be a witness to the loggers and their families. The Church is really an "on-going" concern because the Lord of the Church is consistently working in and through it. He never rests, and sometimes when you are tempted to think that maybe He isn't around, He makes His presence felt in a real way.

Well, the winter is over, spring is here, and summer is just around the corner. This is a very welcome thought to us. The winter hasn't been particularly cold, but it has been very long, and very foggy and rainy. We are glad to see some better weather coming up. In March, the herring spawned on Fish Egg Island right next to us, as they do every year. It is a marvelous phenomenon of nature. Millions of herring come, and because they are food for larger animals, they bring with them seagulls in voluminous numbers, seals, whales, and king salmon. It is the beginning of the awakening of nature after her long winter's sleep. And it is good for us to see it because it gives us a lift. Already, some have caught a couple of king salmon which gives the rest of us itchy feet. This year, for the first time, we are going to have a boat. One of the local men has made a 16' skiff for us with a cabin on it to protect us from rainy weather. Our motor is on the way, so it won't be long before we are also making an attempt at catching a few kings ourselves.

We are very grateful for all the letters and correspondence that you send our way. We are regretful that sometimes we don't answer it too promptly, but we hope that you will understand. We also appreciate the prayers which we know you are offering on our behalf. If any of you are coming up our way, don't hesitate to take a little side trip over to Craig. Also, we hope you will feel free to ask any questions about our work, or to let us know of anything that we can do for you or your church. All of the Van Nest's are presently happy and healthy and we hope and pray that this Lenten season may be a time of deep soul-searching accompanied by a rededication of yourself to the Lord. We hope that you will join us in this prayer that together we may be effective witnesses for the Christ.

In His Service,

Phyllis, Bob, Jim & Chris

P.S. We hope that our letters, henceforth, will be more frequent, and that next time we can include some kind of picture, especially to our supporting churches.

May 2, 1977

The Session of the Craig Presbyterian Church
c/o The Rev. Robert Van Nest
Craig, Alaska

Dear Members of the Session:

You have had the report from the meeting of the Presbytery that the Board of National Missions and the Presbytery have agreed to request your pastor, the Rev. Robert Van Nest, to extend his ministry to include the church and community of Kiarok. We have made this request because the population of Kiarok has grown down considerably and we feel that we cannot justify having a resident ministry in that community when there are so many other needs and we are so short of funds to satisfy the calls that come to us for missionary service.

We are requesting to Mr. Van Nest that he call a meeting of the Sessions of both churches at the same time together to talk about a division of his time and effort on the field, including the monthly visit to Kias Bay, and map out a program of services for the two churches so that both churches may have as many services as they have been accustomed to having, and arrange for the division of his time for pastoral calling in both communities. In order to accomplish this ministry we recognized that it will be necessary to have a car for transportation between the two communities. We are giving Mr. Van Nest a large amount of assistance in the purchase of a car because we recognize that he needs it under this new arrangement. It will be expected that some travel allowance will be provided to him for the transportation costs between the two communities. We want it understood too that the car is being supplied by Mr. Van Nest and the Board of National Missions in order to carry the expense of the church. It should be made clear also that this car is for the church programs and not to be a public taxi for the service of the people in our churches in the two communities, nor is Mr. Van Nest to be looked upon as a public taxi driver for the service of any individual or family in either community. Our car is not to be used as free transportation in competition with any taxi service which is there now. However, in cases of extreme emergency, or if Mr. Van Nest is going to either community for his regular ministry, he would have our permission to take others who may need to go, or something that is essential in the program of the church.

We would ask for the complete cooperation of all of you as Elders and
as members of the two churches in helping to make this program a success.
We know that there may be times when both churches would like to have
their minister at the same time, and there will have to be a willingness
to adjust program on this. We shall count on your cooperation and support.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackson, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska

cc: The Rev. Robert Van Wert
The Rev. Brian Cleworth
The Rev. Paul Meyer

Kindest regards to both of you and blessings upon you in your ministry. We are certain that your life and witness in that community will bear real fruit and that your service in Klawock will strengthen our work there.

Sincerely,

J. Earl Jackman

JEJ:lt
CC/ The Rev. Brian Cleworth

JUN 11 1959

Klawock, Alaska
June 8, 1959

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
Department of Work in Alaska
Board of National Missions
156-5th Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jackman:

The Elders and members of the Klawock Presbyterian Church expressed their desire to have our Klawock-Craig minister make plans to reside at Klawock for the first two years and at Craig for the remainder of each term. All that we have asked for was a fair deal.

We feel that a minister living here would strengthen our church enrollment, help improve our Sunday School program and, above all, be in constant contact with the people, which we missed during the last two years. We want to say again that we do need a minister who will live in our community.

Two years ago you left this question of residency up to the two sessions, and suggested that we draw up our own agreement. That plan was fine and believed it could have worked out satisfactory for all concerned if both sessions came with the idea of sharing. The two sessions met, but no agreement was drawn. We offered the alternating plan, hereby the minister would reside here for the first two years of each term and the remainder at Craig. But Craig would not consider this plan or any other plans we suggested. Instead they told us what they would do and that we could make up our own plans so long as we did not interfere with theirs. We still want to share with Craig and want our plans and desires considered.

In regard to the manse, we are sure that the minister would enjoy living here. The town has done much to improve the water and light system. We no longer need a pump to get water to the manse, as the pressure has been increased to reach the highest building.

Since we cannot arrive at a satisfactory arrangement between the two sessions, we feel that you should urge the sharing and alternating plan on both sessions. In fact, we believe that you should use the alternating plan as the policy for Craig and Klawock for our future ministers. Klawock is willing to share and cooperate with you and Craig Elders and members on any and all questions which will help improve the churches of both places.

May God Bless You,

Archie W. Demmert
Archie W. Demmert
Elder

*Craig-Klawock
Chs.*

June 12, 1959

Mr. Archie W. Cleworth
Klawock, Alaska

Dear Archie:

Thank you for your letter of June 5th setting forth the desire of the Session of the Klawock Church that the next missionary-pastor be asked to live in the manse at Klawock for the first two years of his service, and then spend the other two years in Craig. Under ordinary circumstances, this seems to be a reasonable request to make, and it should be given consideration.

We have been endeavoring to find someone to take the two-point field of Craig and Klawock, but have not been successful so far. We are now in communication with a man who has become very much interested in the field, and we are gathering his papers and references to see whether he will fit your needs in the two-point field. He seems to have considerable background of experience and interest in this kind of work and the situation looks good. In the preliminary information which we have about him and his family, we discover that he has a son of high school age, so that it will be necessary for them to have a good high school wherever they live. It is my understanding that Craig has a high school, and Klawock does not have one, so this may make some difference on where he would live. However in talking with him about this field, we have presented the request of the Klawock Session that he consider living half of the years of service in Klawock. He is willing to consider this with us. As soon as we have further information, we shall be sending a report to you, to Mr. Cleworth and to the Chairman of the two committees of the Presbytery for clearance.

Please be assured that we do have a deep concern for a satisfactory ministry for both of these communities. Best regards to you. Seeing your name reminds me of our first meeting over at Campbell.

Sincerely yours,

J. Earl Jackson, Secretary
Dept. of Work in Alaska

JEJ:BN

CC: Rev. Brian H. Cleworth
Rev. Paul Moser
Rev. William Gavin
Mr. George Johnson

